(c) if so, how many of them are yet to be given this facility;

(d) the reasons for not providing this facility, so far; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to provide more BSNL mobile phone connections in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A total of 3,50,473 BSNL mobile connections (97,782 post-paid and 2,52,691 pre-paid) are working in Karnataka.

(b) to (d) BSNL Post-paid connections are available on demand in Karnataka. There is a demand for BSNL's Pre-paid connections for which the system has capacity constraint. However, no waiting list has been maintained for applicants of Pre-paid connections.

(e) The network is being expanded to increase the present capacity by additional 3,78,000 lines in the current year which will meet Pre-paid demand of the State.

Software production

†408. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of institutions engaged in software production has been closed during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of units closed during the years 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, year-wise;

(c) the States where these units were located alongwith the number of units in each State; and

(d) the amount of capital investment made by Government Financial Institutions in these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) A statement showing details of software exporting units registered under Software Technology Park (STP) scheme, which have been closed during the years 2001-2002, 2002-2003and 2003-2004,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State-wise, is enclosed at Statement (See below). None of these closed units have investments made by SIDBI VENTURE Capital Limited.

Statement

Details of Software exporting units registered under STP Scheme

Sl.No.	Centre	Closed Units		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	Karnataka	32	27	38
2	Orissa	0	0	6
5	Tamil Nadu	21	25	10
6	Gujarat	2	101	2
7	Andhra Pradesh	20	28	10
8	West Bengal	2	2	2
9	Maharashtra	23	16	37
10	Uttar Pradesh	2	7	5
11	Delhi	7	14	5
12	Haryana	4	6	7
13	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	0
14	Rajasthan	0	0	0
15	Punjab	3	19	7
16	Kerala	1	0	1
	TOTAL:	119	247	130

Merger of MTNL and BSNL

409. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and